--- RG-653 - 5 Cigars - Series “C” - 1938 - *imperforate* - 22 x 28 mm. - scanned at 150% scale ---

“L.O. Grothe” is recorded as **2-10D** in the ‘Official List’ for 1942, but the 1943 ‘List’ notes the company as “B. Houde and Grothe”. The first listed use of the *imperforate* **RG-653** by “B. Houde & Grothe” is in the fourth week of August 1944. The hidden letters are “H-M”, and Chris Ryan reports that the die was submitted for approval on May 31st 1938. The date cancellation **4 BPC** is applied across the top in 5 mm. Gothic, and the Gothic 2 mm. company code **2-10D** is added horizontally across the bottom.

coded **4 CSA -** 4th week of March 1945

coded **2 APD -** 2nd week of October 1944

[RG-653]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1944	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1APD	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2CPC	2APD	2BPD	2CPD
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4BPC	---	---	---	---
1945	1ASA	---	1CSA	1ASB	1BSB	1CSB	1ASC	---	1CSC	1ASD	1BSD	1CSD
	---	---	---	2ASB	2BSB	2CSB	---	---	2CSC	2ASD	2BSD	2CSD
	---	---	---	3ASB	3BSB	3CSB	3ASC	---	3CSC	3ASD	---	3CSD
	---	4BSA	4CSA	4ASB	---	---	---	---	4CSC	4ASD	4BSD	4CSD
1946	---	1BTA	---	---	---	---	1ATC	---	1CTC	1ATD	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	2CTB	---	---	---	---	2BTD	2CTD
	3ATA	3BTA	---	---	---	---	---	3BTC	3CTC	---	3BTD	3CTD
	4ATA	4BTA	---	---	---	---	4ATC	---	---	4ATD	4BTD	4CTD
1947	---	1BVA	1CVA	---	1BVB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	2AVA	---	---	2AVB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	3BVA	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	4AVB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1948	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1949	---	---	---	---	---	---	1ABC	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	2CBB	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	3CBB	3ABC	3BBC	3CBC	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1950	1BCA	---	---	1ACB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	3BCB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	4CCA	4ACB	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1951	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Judging by the collection of the ***green*** **RG-653**, by 1947-48 the six cigar package using the ***orange-red*** R**G-655** was in general production, and the five cigar package was only an occasional item. NOTE: ** the cancellation **2CPC** occurs both as inverted and as upright

By the late 1940's the company name, as recorded on cigar packages using the company code **2-10D** is "Imperial Tobacco Sales Company of Canada Limited", Montreal. Also by then "Andrew Wilson", Toronto [**26-50E**] had been acquired, and both this and the "General Cigars", Toronto plant [**11-50E**] had been closed. In 1952 the code **2A-10D** was in use, and then the code reverted to **2-10D** as the company name became the "General Cigar Co. Ltd."

--- "Imperial Tobacco Sales", Montreal [2-10D] - a single 5 mm. Gothic three-digit <u>horizontal</u> number - from 1951 ---

Judging by their cigarette cancellations, in June / July 1951 "Imperial Tobacco Sales" also dropped the letter system for cigar production, and began a three digit number sequence starting with **124** - the numbers, I presume, represent the *week* of production in 1951 - thus four numbers per month were used.

RG-653 - 5 cigars, *imperforate*, coded **125 / 2-10D** by "Imperial Tobacco Sales", Montreal, in the 25th week of 1951

[RG-653]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1951	---	---	---	---	---	---	124	128	---	---	143	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	125	129	---	140	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	126	---	---	141	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	127	---	---	---	---	---

According to an old collection, purchased many years ago, due to a plant strike, the cigarette numbers **129-130** and **134-138** (inclusive) were not used, and **145-200** were omitted due to a plant shut-down, and then when the strike at Imperial had been settled and the resumed production using their three digit series beginning at **201** - the following 4 mm. "Imperial Tobacco Sales" short sequence has been collected.

NOTE: All of the black or red codes listed (e.g. **1ATC, 125, 4205** etc.) are found in the cancellation collection. Any codes highlighted in yellow (e.g. **3BBC**) are taken from eBay and ***are not*** in the collection.

According to an old collection, purchased many years ago, due to a plant strike, the cigarette numbers **129-130** and **134-138** (inclusive) were not used, and **145-200** were omitted due to a plant shut-down, and then when the strike at Imperial had been settled and the resumed production using their three digit series beginning at **201** - the following 4 mm. "Imperial Tobacco Sales" short sequence has been collected.

RG-653 - 5 cigars, *imperforate*, coded **203 / 2-10D** by "Imperial Tobacco Sales", in the 3rd week of 1952?

[RG-653]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1951	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	206	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	203	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	208	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

There then follows an abbreviated pair of four-digit number sequences in the **2000** and the **3000** range. These same numbers recur on other denomination cigar stamps from this era used by "General Cigars", and thus do not seem to form a continuous sequence.

---	---	---	---	---	---	2262	---	---	---
2301	---	---	---	---	---	2363	---	---	---
2401	---	---	2432	---	---	2462	---	---	—

3101	---	---	3132	---	---	---	---	---	---
3201	---	3231	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4128	4129
4130	---	4132	---	4134	4135	4136	4137	---	---

These flow into the following twinned four digit codes, forming a continuous sequence reading vertically down.

--- "General Cigars", Montreal [2-10D] - with twin 5 mm. Gothic four-digit vertical numbers - from 1954-65 ---

---	---	---	4143	4144	---	4146	---	4148	4149
4150	4151	4152	4153	4154	4155	4156	4157	4158	---
4160	4161	4162	4163	4164	4165	4166	4167	4168	4169
4170	4171	4172	4173	4174	4175	4176	4177	4178	4179
4180	4181	4182	4183	4184	4185	4186	4187	4188	4189
4190	---	4192	4193	4194	4195	4196	4197	4198	4199

--- "General Cigars", Montreal [2-10D] - with twinned 5 mm. Gothic <u>vertical</u> *red numbers* - from 1954-65 ---

The collection contains these doubled four-digit codes in the **4000** sequence, reading *vertically down*, from "General Cigars", Montreal. They seem to record and follow the same numbers as found in the preceding ***black*** sequence, with a pre-fixed **4**, and are finally used without the **4** - in three digits.

--- in four digits ---

---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	4199
4200	4201	4202	4203	4204	4205	4206	4207	---	---

--- in three digits ---

---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	208	209
---	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219
220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229
230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249
250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259
260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269
270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279
280	281	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The company code as found on the numbers from **4199** to **228** (plus **231**) is in a heavy pure Gothic **2-10D** as is also found on all of the preceding ***black*** coded stamps - while the company code used from **229** to **281** (except for **231**) use the thinner serifed version of 2-10 D - illustrated below in ***red ink*** -

--- both are scanned at 300% scale ---

--- "General Cigars", Montreal [2-10D] - with twinned 5 mm. Gothic <u>horizontal</u> *red numbers* - from 1954-65 ---

A similar series occurs with the double three digit numbers reading horizontally across the top of the stamp. Predictably, following the same format as the preceding stamps, the initial two lower numbers (**222** and **223**) use the heavier pure Gothic **2-10D**, while the remaining higher numbers use the later thin serifed company code 2-10 D reading horizontally at the bottom. Judging by this company code correspondence, these horizontally coded stamps were probably used concurrently with the preceding vertically oriented set, and were designed for different packaging requirements.

--- in three digits ---

---	---	222	223	---	---	---	---	---	---
230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
240	241	242	243	---	245	246	---	---	249
---	---	252	253	254	255	256	257	---	259
260	261	---	263	---	---	266	267	268	269
---	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279
280	281	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- "General Cigars", Montreal [10D-2] - with twinned 5 mm. Gothic <u>horizontal</u> *red numbers* - from 1965 ---

In a similar twin horizontal format but with the reversed company code to read **10D-2** are the following. I would guess that these are *end-of-run* stamps which saw concurrent use with **G-360** the new smaller black "Series of 1965" coat-of-arms stamp.

RG-653 - 5 cigars, *imperforate*, coded **244** / 10D-2

---	---	---	243	244	245	246	247	248	---
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- with doubled 5 mm. Gothic numbers reading *vertically down* - in RED ink ---

While in the vertical, twin format, with 10D-2 there are the following copies, produced concurrently with the preceding for a different packaging requirement.

RG-653 - 5 cigars, *imperforate*, coded **244** / 10D-2

---	---	---	243	244	245	---	247	248	249
250	251	252	253	---	---	---	---	---	---

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